

**RE: IN SUPPORT OF RAISED HB 6554 AN ACT CONCERNING EMERGENCY MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR PERSONS EXPERIENCING A DRUG OVERDOSE.**

Dear Judiciary Committee

My name is Mary Marcuccio, I live in Southington, I'm a parent, and I have a 21 yr old drug addicted son – iv heroin is his drug of choice. I'm writing to admonish you to support HB #6554 because IT NEEDS TO HAPPEN. Current laws around substance abuse/treatment/criminality ---- ARE BROKEN.

The current laws discourage, if not outright disable, a person from calling for help when it is MOST NEEDED....TOO MANY TIMES the girlfriend or best friend of the user doesn't call 911 to revive the *blue, not breathing* overdosed person because the chances ARE that someone will be leaving that scene with an arrest...

Instead,, Johnny or Suzy leaves him on the floor of the apartment and runs away ..... or worse yet, they pull the car over and DUMP Billy onto the side of the road or onto his front lawn, and then they speed off ..... "THAT CAN'T POSSIBLY HAPPEN" you say --- well, it can and it DOES --- BEEN THERE, DONE THAT.

We need to ENCOURAGE a drug user/his associate to CALL FOR HELP, ASK FOR HELP, GET HELP!!!!...because *EVERY OVERDOSED JUNKIE IS SOMEBODY'S SOMEBODY* --- MY son, YOUR daughter, YOUR dearest friend.

I am not asking you to support the AVOIDANCE of accountability, as some perceive this issue.... rather, I'm asking you to ALLOW for an opportunity for life, an opportunity for CHANGE.... Because, as a very dear friend in grateful recovery taught me: **DEAD PEOPLE DON'T GO INTO TREATMENT.**

This is personal for me, not just because we've dealt with overdoses and arrests, but because RIGHT NOW we're dealing with **THE** overdose, **THE** arrest ----- the potential of the *destroy-your-future* felony CONVICTION .....

Please -- hear my plea for good common sense legislation, and give your support to this bill .

THANK YOU,

MARY MARCUCCIO  
Southington CT 06489